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Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
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The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), which represents municipal, regional and private water utilities serving residents and businesses throughout Connecticut, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on **SB-12 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT MATCHING FUNDS AND EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR DISTRIBUTING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT.**

CWWA supports provisions in SB-12 which provide \$75 million to fund the state match which is required under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), otherwise referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

As stewards of the state's water resources, Connecticut's public water suppliers are committed to providing residents and businesses with safe, high quality drinking water supplies to meet public health, public safety and economic development needs. Water companies face many challenges in meeting these needs, including significant capital costs associated with replacing aging infrastructure, improving the efficiency of treatment, distribution and storage systems, and upgrading systems to comply with state and federal requirements, including 1) identifying and replacing lead service lines; 2) testing and treating public water supplies to address emerging contaminants such as PFAS, 3) hardening infrastructure to enhance climate resiliency, and 4) modifying dams and distribution systems to make stream flow releases.

Under the first annual allotment under IIJA, Connecticut will receive \$53,770,000 in water infrastructure funding, which will be distributed to eligible water companies through the state's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:

- \$17,955,000 for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- \$28,275,000 for DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement which will help address the lifelong impacts of lead exposure on children and other vulnerable populations
- \$7,540,000 for DWSRF Emerging Contaminants, including PFAS

By providing funding for the required state match, SB-12 will help Connecticut leverage federal IIJA funding to ensure that resources are available to assist water companies in upgrading water infrastructure, replacing lead service lines, and addressing PFAS and other emerging contaminants.



Given the significant costs associated with meeting these challenges and the tremendous benefit to public health, safety, the environment, and economic development, leveraging federal funding to support water infrastructure investment should be a priority.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) is a trade association of municipal, regional, and private water utilities committed to supporting legislative & regulatory policies that ensure that water utilities can continue to provide the state's residents and businesses with safe, high quality public water supplies at a reasonable cost. CWWA's members serve more than 2 ½ million people throughout Connecticut.